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## Viewing cable 06MEXICO505, APOCALYPSE NOT: AMLO ASSURES AMBASSADOR HE WILL

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### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06MEXICO505**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">06MEXICO505</a>	<a href="#">2006-01-31 14:22</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Mexico</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://wikileaks.jornada.com.mx/notas/eu-no-veia-mal-la-llegada-de-lopez-obrador-a-los-pinos>

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8608  
INFO RUEHXC/ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8608  
INFO RUEHXC/ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE  
TAGS: [MX](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#)  
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MEXICO 000505

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DEPT TO USAID FOR AA/LAC, DAA/LAC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/24/2016

TAGS: [MX](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#)

SUBJECT: APOCALYPSE NOT: AMLO ASSURES AMBASSADOR HE WILL  
HAVE A STRONG, SOUND ADMINISTRATION

REF: A. MEXICO 251

[1](#)B. MEXICO 255

Classified By: Ambassador Antonio O. Garza Jr. for reasons 1.4 (B,D)

#### Summary

[1](#)1. (C) On 01/23, presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) of the leftist-Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) sat down with the Ambassador to discuss his proposals on a number of key issues of interest to the United States. Accompanied by his foreign policy advisor, Dr. Jose Maria Perez Gay, and economic advisor, Rogelio Ramirez de la O, AMLO spoke at length of his plan to stem the flow of immigration to the U.S. through targeted economic programs in return for a negotiated accord to "regularize" the status of Mexicans living abroad. AMLO explained what Mexico's role in the international arena would be under his presidency, as well as his plans for major law enforcement restructuring in order to combat narcotics and terrorist activity more effectively. He also spoke about his campaign schedule and what troubles he foresees in the coming months. Humble and friendly, AMLO did not guarantee a victory come July, but instead promised to continue working hard and plowing forward. His promises, though lacking in details, show AMLO is aware of common perceptions regarding his candidacy and that he tried to ease our minds. He also set the groundwork to seek U.S. assistance -- if elected -- to support several of his main objectives. End Summary.

#### Taking Care of Business First, Migrants Later

[1](#)2. (C) On 01/23, the Ambassador hosted the last of three breakfast meetings with Mexico's top presidential candidates (reftels). Assisting the Ambassador were PolCouns, EMINCouns, and USAID Director. Fresh off of his morning half-hour infomercial, AMLO arrived ready for an ample discussion of key issues. After brief introductions by USAID Director and EMINCouns, AMLO jumped right into the topic of immigration. Stating that the rise in immigration was due primarily to a lack of economic growth in Mexico, AMLO proposed cooperation with the private sector and the U.S. on economic development projects as the cheapest avenue for stemming the flow of migrants, especially in Mexico's Southeast where, AMLO said, the new wave of migrants was originating. He described an economic plan, primarily made up of large-scale infrastructure programs like highway and housing construction and reforestation projects, that would generate employment, spur economic growth, and eventually give Mexico the necessary leverage to negotiate an immigration accord to "regularize" the status of Mexicans living in the U.S. In addition to private sector investment, AMLO will seek U.S. assistance for financing and accreditation from international institutions for his projects so that they can continue long after his term is over.

[1](#)3. (C) The Ambassador proposed that AMLO look beyond the economy when contemplating the immigration issue and focus on other areas like education, which he stated was consistently raised during his travels in the Southeast. AMLO agreed, confirming that education was a problem everywhere in Mexico but especially in rural communities.

#### Mexico Won't Join Regional Blocs

[1](#)4. (C) The Ambassador asked AMLO about Mexico's role in the region under his administration and what his position was on Cuba, Venezuela and Bolivia. AMLO responded that the

situations in each of those countries were different because of their varying economic issues, proposing that there is no "one" Left and that we should not forget that Brazil, Argentina and Chile were also considered "leftist" governments. AMLO explained that Mexico would have a measured, prudent foreign policy that would be an extension of his domestic achievements. "We must strengthen Mexico first," he said, calling for a less protagonistic role in foreign affairs. The Ambassador explained that Mexico has a role to play if it wants, that it is in position to keep balance in the region, and that the sheer size of the country and economy may demand a more active stance. AMLO admitted that he would be open to cooperation with Central America but that Mexico would generally not take the lead on multilateral or international initiatives. He stressed he was not/not interested in joining any "blocs", specifically Anti-American or "Anti-Southern" (presumably anti-Mercosur) blocs. AMLO finished by explaining that he does not particularly like to travel and that he has never met Hugo Chavez, Fidel Castro or Evo Morales. He did mention, however, that he does know a handful of other heads of state from his time as mayor of

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Mexico City. While AMLO made abundantly clear foreign policy was not his priority, he also made clear the U.S. was a special case.

#### Keeping the Peace, Together

15. (C) Drug consumption is on the rise, noted the Ambassador, and counter-narcotic and counter-terrorism programs must be important themes of Mexico's next administration. AMLO agreed and told the Ambassador that both governments must find ways to increase cooperation. AMLO then laid out his two-fold plan for combating both issues. First, he said, he wants to give the military more power and authority in counter-narcotics operations because it is the least corrupt of all of Mexico's agencies and can be the most effective. He pointed out, however, that this would require a constitutional amendment but felt strongly he could get it done. He also explained that giving the military more authority would limit Mexico's Prosecutor General's Office (PGR), which AMLO considered too corrupt to have the lead on counter-narcotics. The second part of the equation, according to AMLO, was consolidating Mexico's law enforcement and intelligence agencies back into the Secretariat of Governance (SEGOB). He proposed doing away with the Secretariat of Public Security and returning Mexico's Federal

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Police Force (PFP) and intelligence agency (CISEN) to SEGOB. The plan, as AMLO stated, would help save money, cut agency infighting, and give SEGOB a more prominent role on internal issues.

#### Keep On Rolling Along

16. (C) AMLO appeared concerned about the campaign season that lay ahead, stopping well short of predicting his own victory in July. He plans to travel the entire country in three stages in an effort to consolidate his base and attract more independents. These would be the deciding votes, AMLO said, and he currently holds more of them than any of the other candidates. In addition, AMLO described his new daily television program on TV Azteca as a major campaign component. The half-hour show runs from 6:00 am to 6:30 am Mondays through Fridays. The show will run every weekday from now until the end of the campaign at a total cost of 20 million pesos (approximately 2 million USD). AMLO explained that he would appear live on the show every Monday and Tuesday and will have special guests appearing the rest of the week.

17. (C) AMLO acknowledged the drawbacks of his two coalition partners, as well as the weaknesses of his own PRD. While public infighting between factions of the PRD's Mexico City

group undeniably reflected badly on him, AMLO said he was nonetheless pleased with PRD candidate for Mexico city Mayor Marcelo Ebrard. AMLO finished by telling the Ambassador he would like to continue meeting with U.S. officials and that he wants the Embassy ready to sit down and discuss areas of cooperation immediately after the elections if he should win, emphasizing that he would not wait until January 2007 to start organizing his new government.

Comment

18. (C) Although lacking in concrete details, AMLO appears to be working toward putting the right pieces in place for a strong government. The effectiveness of his government, however, will require the U.S. playing a key role in his programs. On every issue raised, AMLO expressed his desire for new or increased cooperation. This, in addition to an increase in private sector investment, is relevant because AMLO proposes cutting government spending while increasing social programs. The emphasis on U.S. development and financing assistance is a clear sign his government cuts will not be enough to pay for his social programs and that an influx of funding from alternate sources are necessary. It was also apparent that AMLO has not thoroughly thought through his economic/migration plan. AMLO's concentration on infrastructure projects as the key to spurring growth and employment overlooks many other economic areas that need attention by the next government if the desired results are to be obtained. He believes creating jobs in Mexico and stemming the flow of migrants moving North is just the olive branch needed to negotiate a "regularization" or amnesty of those Mexicans already there. Poloff met with AMLO's campaign coordinator the following day (septel) and explained that immigration policy was a domestic, congressional affair and that Mexico's role should be geared more toward controlling its border and emphasizing all legal migration tools. An experienced politician, AMLO geared his discussion to his audience, showing his willingness to discuss the difficult issues and appearing open to our suggestions. End

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Comment.

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